

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – E.F.S. & T. Department - Disciplinary proceedings initiated against T. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division, under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 read with Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Inquiry conducted – Imposition of penalty of “Withholding of 33% of Pension permanently and to treat the suspension period as Not on Duty” against the Charged Officer Sri T.Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.) – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE& TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 14

Dated: 18-03-2025
Read the following:-

- 1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, Letter Ref.No.16514/2016/A&DC-3, dated 28.10.2021.
- 2)Govt. Memo.No.209/Sec.IV/A1/2017, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Department, dated 27.09.2024.
- 3)From Sri T. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division, Written representation, dated 'Nil'.

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Articles of Charges were issued to Sri T.Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer, earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division by the Divisional Forest Officer, Eluru in Rc.No.4426/2016/S2, dated 30.01.2017, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:-

Article- I	“That he had exhibited misconduct and violated the agreement conditions and allowed the contractors to transport the Eucalyptus pulpwood without making payment to an extent of Rs.68,52,881/- and also by adjusting 1/4 th deposits to an extent of Rs.17,70,399/- without previous permission from the Divisional Forest Officer, Eluru. Further, he failed to ensure the payment of other taxes like 5% VAT and 2.5% Income Tax and also failed to report the factum of non-payment of full sale amount, taxes, etc., to the Forest Range Officer, Eluru and to in order to calculate the penal interest. As such total loss sustained to the Government is Rs.88,27,900/- (FSA Rs.68,52,881/- + VAT-Rs.4,93,664/- + IT Rs.2,58,917/- + PI Rs.12,22,182/-) as per the details given in the Annexure and thereby responsible”.
Article- II	“That he had failed to follow the agreement conditions such as approval of the route prescribed for the transport of pulpwood material and that he issued the Form-I Permits to the purchaser for lifting of material from the plantation site directly to final destination and that he has issued Form-I Permits instead of Form-II Permits as per the sale agreement conditions”.

P.T.O.

Article-III	"That he has failed to intimate from time to time about the exact quantity of material kept ready for transport and also failed to submit the progress of quantum of Eucalyptus pulpwood extracted, transported and amount collected from the contractor to the Forest Range officer, Eluru and also failed to submit the weekly progress report on extraction and transportation of pulpwood".
Article-IV	"That he has failed to maintain the required records as per guidelines such as Daily Felling Register, Lot war Register, Material Weighment Register, Form-5 returns as required in DET Manual".
Article-V	"That he had exhibited gross negligence of duty and committed grave irregularities and failed to quantify the Eucalyptus plantations as per guidelines and by conducting (100) trees exercise of Eucalyptus plantations in (5) VSSs of Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range during 2015-16".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the Articles of Charges on 01.02.2017 and submitted his written statement of defence on 07.02.2017. Not satisfying with the explanation of the Charged Officer, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle as Common Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada (T) Division as Presenting Officer respectively, in Ref.No.16514/2016/Vig-1(i&ii), dated 01.03.2018, for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle has completed the enquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.5207/2016/M8, dated 20.08.2018, wherein the Inquiry Officer has concluded that all the charges framed against the Charged Officer were held proved.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.16514/2016/A&DC-3(i)(ii), dated 06.02.2019. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the final notice on 13.03.2019 but did not submit his written representation.

5. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.10.2021.

6. After careful examination of the matter keeping in view of the findings of Inquiry Officer, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty of "Withholding of 33% of Pension permanently and to treat the suspension period as Not on Duty", against T. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in the Govt. Memo. 2nd read above, a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer with a direction to submit his written representation if any, on the proposed punishment to be imposed against him. The Charged Officer has submitted his written representation vide reference 3rd read above wherein, he did not put-forth any new grounds/valid points to consider his written representation.

7. Government after careful examination of the entire matter, have decided to impose a penalty of "Withholding of 33% of Pension permanently and to treat the suspension period as Not on Duty", against T. Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly,

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Government hereby order to impose a penalty of "Withholding of 33% of Pension permanently and to treat the suspension period as Not on Duty", against T.Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

Sri T.Venkateswara Rao, Forest Section Officer (Retd.), earlier worked in Yerraguntapalli Section, Eluru Range, Eluru Division through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi
SF/SC (Computer No.1462790).

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER